



EWA NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 23

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 400 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813
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REGULAR MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2006 EWA BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Kurt Fevella called meeting to order 7:00 p.m. with a quorum present.

MEMBER'S PRESENT: Jeff Alexander, Gary Bautista, Tom Berg, Kurt Fevella, Richard Hargrave, James Moylan (late), Michael O'Neill, and Normand Robert.

MEMBER'S ABSENT: Alisa Bender, Rey Rodriguez and Sai Tagovailoa-Amosa.

GUESTS: David Pagan, Councilmember Todd Apo, Gary Oliva (Hawaiian Electric Company - HECO), Lt. Fabian Liu and Major Mike Tamashiro (Honolulu Police Department - HPD), Sgt. Edgar Namoca (HPD Weed & Seed), Glen Oamilda, Firefighter Kevin Ho (Honolulu Fire Department - HFD), Gale Bracerros (Weed & Seed), Joyce Oliveira (Mayor's Representative, Office of the Mayor), Wendy Sefo, Cdr. M.A. Sevilla, George Yakowenko, John Jacobson, Sharene Saito Tam, Keith Seadman, John Miyagishime, R. Scott Beyod, Coby Lynn, Neil Yamashiro, Jacqueline Tomisa, Jaime Freitas, Charles Freitas, Cal Sueoka (Board of Water Supply – BWS), Evelyn Souza, Abel Suarez, Franklin Souza, Rod Ohira, Pamela Witty-Oakland, Bob Lining, Judy Suarez, Mary Serrao, and Elwin Spray (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS: Chair Fevella asked members present to introduce themselves (Alexander, Bautista, Berg, Fevella, Hargrave, O'Neill, and Robert) and welcomed the community to the meeting.

Minutes of Regular Meeting of June 8, 2006 – Chair Fevella announced that approval of the Minutes of Regular Meeting of June 8, 2006 would be deferred until the August 2006 meeting.

Treasurer's Report – Chair Fevella announced that the Treasurer's report would be deferred.

REPORTS BY EMERGENCY AGENCIES

Honolulu Fire Department – HFD – Firefighter Kevin Ho reported three structure fires and one brush fire in the Ewa community. He also discussed the Fire Safety Tip for July: Child Proofing of Home – Take the time to childproof your home, especially since keiki are on summer vacation. Check for potentially dangerous situations, i.e., electrical shock, accidental falls, or poisoning from medications, cleaning fluids, and houseplants. Keep matches and lighters in a safe place and out of reach of small children. There were no questions.

Honolulu Police Department – HPD – Lt. Fabian Loo reported on newly created criminal laws on arson, explaining that these laws will be especially useful in combating area rubbish and brush fires. The laws have new definitions of arson as Class A, B, and C felonies and misdemeanor, which include increases in the arson definitions and provides for the arsonists to be more financially responsible for the results of the fires. He stressed that the community serves as the eyes for the HPD and fire department. He advised everyone reporting law violations, as well as anyone observed in the vicinity of a recently set fire, to record license numbers and vehicle and person's descriptions. He distributed copies of the monthly activity statistics for June 2006, reporting 7264 police service calls, resulting in 357 adult arrests and 93 juvenile arrests.



Community concerns were reported on, including a request from Bautista that the HPD be alert to incidents of tagging, with Loo noting that federal guidelines are also involved. Loo also reports a tagging survey finding that the majority are under the age of twenty and are not professional taggers or gang members.

Continuing community concern on the staffing level of HPD officers was commented on by Steadmand, with the response that staffing is being continually evaluated to determine if adjustments in shifts or assignments are warranted. As part of the staffing level discussion, it was explained that requests for assistance are funneled through the dispatchers, who evaluate the calls on the information reported as well as other 911 needs being reported. The officers in the field do not know what other calls have been received and are being dispatched but that any individual community concern could be followed up on outside of the meeting. Although an officer might not be able to immediately respond to a call, securing the information such as vehicle numbers or digital photos would still be a useful tool and could be used later, but Loo cautioned that a camera should not be used in a situation where it might create a confrontation and that photos could not always be assumed to be permissible in all courts.

Ewa Weed & Seed Unit – HPD – The Weed and Seed Unit's juvenile arrest statistics report for December 2005 to June 2006 was distributed by Sgt. Namoca, showing a breakdown of twenty-three arrests for June 2006. Chair Fevella discussed intoxicated drivers as a community concern in the Weed and Seed area, where the concept has been for very low "no tolerance," although a high level of tolerance was being reported as being followed by a regular HPD officer. He reported witnessing drivers drinking but, although he reported the incident to the regular officer, no alcohol Breathalyzer tests were administered. Chair Fevella explained that the need included educating regular beat officers on the Weed and Seed program; Namoca apologized for the incident and reported he would follow up on the specifics. To Oamilda, the Weed and Seed program was discussed as not a drug arrest program but a concentrated effort to break the drug use pattern, with Chair Fevella adding "to weed out the bad and to seed the good." Oamilda expressed concern that the unit was working alone (without other HPD, State Sheriff or FBI units) , to which Namoca responded that several investigations are ongoing.

Board of Water Supply – Cal Sueoka (Board of Water Supply – BWS) reported two water main breaks in the Ewa community over the last month.

Parks and Recreation – Chair Fevella announced that any Parks issues could be addressed to Mayor Hannemann's representative, Joyce Oliveria.

Military – Commander Mark Sevilla reported the availability of a presentation on the Barber's Point facilities if the Board wished.

Moylan arrived, 7:45 p.m.

Board of Education – No representative was present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS:

University of Phoenix (UOP) – Lei Furukawa represented the University of Phoenix, who will have an open house for it's new Kapolei campus in September 6, 2006 (to which flyers will be passed out at a future meeting). She said the annual student cost for UOP would be \$10,000, which she reported is "pretty much covered by financial aid."

Hawaii Highway Users' Alliance – Berg reported a future transportation symposium to be held September 6, 2006, which would include a report on the recent Greece symposium on traffic solutions.

Waimanalo Gulch Landfill Alternative Site Forums – Flyers are being distributed to invite the community to attend meetings on the future of the Waimanalo Gulch Landfill. The meeting will be a Kapolei High School on Wednesday, July 19, 2006.

Hawaii Raceway Park Issue – Evelyn Souza discussed the need for re-establishment of a raceway park, seeking public funds (half from the State and half from the City) to pay for the new track and its operation, to start at a one million dollars initial appropriation. She reported a petition having been submitted to the City Council for the project and asked for support letters to be sent. **Bautista moved to add the issue of support of the publicly funded raceway park on Oahu to the Ewa Neighborhood Board No. 23 agenda for August 2006, and started to discuss adding the issue to the current month's agenda.** Oamilda suggested that the issue be deferred until August to allow the other side of the issue to be heard. Alexander suggested proceeding in July. Chair Fevella said he would add it to August agenda.

North-South Road – John Jacobson introduced himself as representing the re-paving portion of the water pipe replacement project, apologized in advance for the disruption the project would cause in the community, but explained that he would be available to answer concerns and questions as the building started.

Computer Training – A computer training program is in operation at the City Park and the community is invited to drop in whenever the park is open.

Beach/City Bus Access at Iroquois Point – Chair Fevella announced that the issue would be brought up at the August meeting.

Discussion on Liquor/Tobacco Advertisement at Liquor Store in Ocean Pt. Grocery Outlet -- Chair Fevella announced that the issue would be brought up at the August meeting.

Alexander discussed the Iroquois Point item as being reported on in Representative Pine's community report. Chair Fevella said he regretted her making the public discussion and that he has asked for the developers themselves to make the presentation at a Neighborhood Board meeting. He also reported that he has been told that the management company's reluctance to come to a Neighborhood Board meeting was because the Board has a reputation for being "radical." He repeated that he would like the discussions to be held at the Board meetings where the community and all members can ask questions. Alexander said that the bus ridership issue was reported to the Board four years ago as the Iroquois Point community being too small a population to support bus service. Chair Fevella said he would leave the issue off the August agenda pending more information.

Chair Fevella started to discuss the background of the liquor/tobacco advertisement issue at area liquor stores, which was explained that very-large advertising posters and banners are being placed inside windows on liquor stores, violating the community's sense of a family neighborhood by encouraging liquor purchases with pictures and slogans. The applicant's original presentation was that the store was to be a neighborhood grocery operation, would not be primarily liquor, but that has changed from what was promised.

NEW BUSINESS

Bautista noted that the St. Francis Conditional Use Permit application for the housing project would be heard at a public hearing on July 14, 2006, with the Board having voted to support the project at the June 2006 meeting. He asked the community to speak at the hearing (at 10 a.m. in the City's Human Resources small-red-brick building at Honolulu Hale) if there were any unanswered questions.

Candidate Forum -- Berg presented his Legislative Committee/Candidate Forum Committee's plans for the Board's planned candidate forum, to be either the 3rd or 5th Thursday in August, with a 6:30 p.m.

submittal of questions, and followed at 7:15 by a Board Member reading questions, and then one-minute responses by the candidates. The Board discussed the possibility of the proposed dates, perhaps canceling the August Neighborhood Board meeting and to allow for videotaping. Chair Fevella said that prior arrangements had been made for speakers to attend the August Board meeting and the August meeting should proceed as planned.

Bautista moved, seconded by Alexander, that the candidate forum be held on the third Thursday in August (August 17, 2006), with the motion passing 6-2-0. Aye: Alexander, Bautista, Berg, Hargrave, Moylan, Robert. **No:** Fevella, Moylan. Chair Fevella announced that the final arrangements for the site would be presented at the Board's August meeting. Waipahu Neighborhood Board member Yakowenko reported that the Waipahu Board would not be videotaping their Waipahu candidate forum; Berg said the Ewa forum would not be videotaped for 'Olelo, primarily discussing the difficulty in assuring that the finished tape could be aired in an appropriate timeslot.

Geiger Park Planning -- Terry Hildebrand reported on finalization to the plans for Geiger Park, including use of non-potable water irrigation and possible elimination of the original proposal for a tennis court due to the proximity of the planned softball field. The volleyball court was planned to be a clay court. The design plan would be bided out in the end of calendar year 2006. Parking would be 60 to 70 spaces. Chair Fevella suggested community input be solicited at this point in the planning, with the community being able to prioritize tennis or basketball courts.

Berg moved, seconded by Alexander, that the community's input be solicited and received before the approval of the Geiger Park planning proceeds to a vote by the Ewa Neighborhood Board, specifically to include comments to be received on the tennis court and basketball court. Berg suggested the Parks Committee meet at the regular committee meeting on August 1st, 2006 with the inclusion of Hildebrand and an open invitation to the community. Chair Fevella said the community meeting should go forward on August 1st, at Asing Park, with Berg and Alexander withdrawing their motion. Berg asked for a report to be given on the status of the planning documents previously paid for by the City, which were not received for this project.

REPORTS BY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor's Representative – Joyce Oliveira represented Mayor Hannemann, distributed a newsletter from the Mayor's Office, and reported on prior issues, including capital improvement funds being passed for the district and that the issue of tree trimming at the Renton Road median has been reviewed. Berg said that the issue of tree trimming included the front of the Manager's House, which the community had been told was to be a publicly available facility which is needed in April 2007 (Family Fun Fair). Berg said he would contact Oliveira with some pictures of the trees needing attention. Chair Fevella asked for a list of the bus stops that were to be removed.

Berg also asked about the status of the interisland fairy. Bautista asked for a status of the Ewa Mills reconstruction and the Roosevelt Avenue / Renton Road intersection. Attention was also requested to the Keaunui and Palanaka intersections where signage (and crosswalks) are not posted. Oamilda asked for attention to be paid to the repaving needs, with Chair Fevella saying he would assist in identifying the specific locations, but he said he would like a general report on road improvement on area streets.

Councilmember Todd Apo – Councilmember Apo reported that the contemplated removal of bus stops was only to be on Kalakaua Avenue and not any other locations. Other City projects reported on including passage of budget items (overall budget approval, including \$200 less on property tax and lowering of property tax rate), an anticipated Auditor's report on the Neighborhood Board System was received and a policy change had been made by the City to consider the renaming of parks after community members. Berg noted that a portion of street adjacent to Old Fort Weaver Road is not named, a concern in communicating to emergency vehicle operators who would be responding in a

crisis. A comment was also made that the mass transit corridor selection process seemed to already be committed to rail transit.

ADJOURNED – Chair Fevella adjourned the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Submitted by Kelley Ann Santiago, Neighborhood Commission Office staff